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The POULTRY and EGG SITUATION

PES-178

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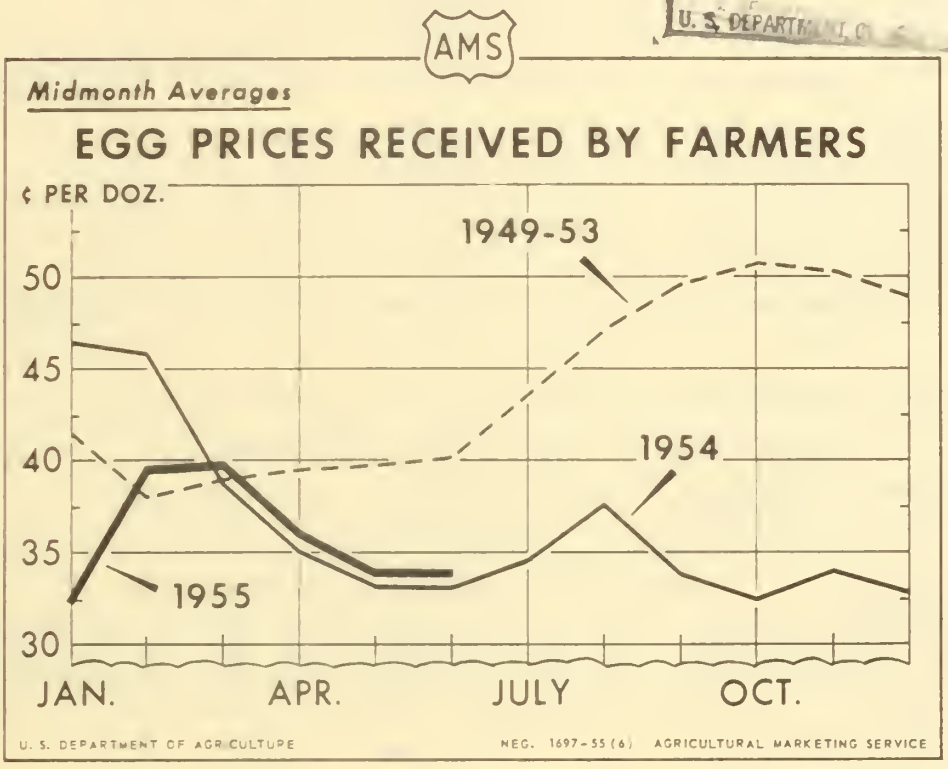

Despite a bulge in egg prices during February and March 1955, egg prices to date this year have been below or only very slightly above 1954. In 1954, springtime egg prices were the lowest since 1950, and supplies in the fall and winter were so large that no appreciable seasonal egg price rise developed.

In the later months of 1955, however, a seasonal egg price increase is likely because egg production in the last quarter of the year will reflect the sharp reduction (18 percent on June 1) in the number of replacement chickens being raised this year.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Month or date	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Comments on current situation
EGGS										
Farm production	Mil. doz.	May	504.8	510.4	536.7	June	425.3	443.1	475.1	Declining seasonally, but likely to continue larger than 1954 for another month or two.
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	May	336.2	330.4	338.4	June	317.6	317.0	326.2	
Rate of lay per layer	Eggs	May	18.0	18.5	19.0	June	16.1	16.8	17.5	
Apparent disappearance of shell eggs per civilian 1/	Eggs	Apr.	32.5	34.6	2/34.9	May	3/32.0	34.2	2/34.3	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	Apr.	75.2	70.3	64.9	May	76.8	55.4	68.7	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	Apr.	11.7	3.2	2.9	May	12.1	3.2	2.9	
Price received by farmers	Ct.per doz.	May	37.4	33.1	33.8	June	38.3	33.0	33.8	See cover chart for 1954 and 5-year average trends
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	May	93	80	81	June	93	78	80	
Retail price (AMS)	Ct.per doz.	Apr.	55.6	53.8	53.3	May	56.0	52.2	51.6	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	May	10.2	8.3	9.0	June	10.4	8.5	9.2	
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous.cases	May 1	2,912	728	1,183	June 1	4,416	1,348	2,065	Larger than 1953 or 1954, despite long-term downward trend
Frozen	Mil. lb.	May 1	151.9	136.5	125.8	June 1	198.2	167.0	169.3	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	Apr.	307.3	304.2	270.4	May	239.1	219.8	216.9	
Young chickens on farms	Millions	June 1	534.3	504.2	415.3	July 1	528.3	475.9	*	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol.per cwt.	May	3.70	3.97	3.74	June	3.70	3.90	3.69	
POULTRY										
Price received by farmers for chickens, live										
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	May	30.2	23.7	26.8	June	30.1	24.4	27.3	For broilers, prices well above last year have encouraged large placements
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	May	26.1	19.7	20.2	June	25.4	18.6	19.9	
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	May	27.8	22.7	25.1	June	27.4	22.7	25.1	
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity	Percent	May	103	75	87	June	102	76	87	
Retail price of broilers and fryers dressed (AMS) 3/	Ct. per lb.	Apr.	49.8	49.5	57.1	May	49.6	48.0	52.8	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	May	32.4	31.1	28.4	June	32.3	31.3	29.1	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	May 1	96.6	105.4	56.9	June 1	82.8	98.9	46.3	Relatively low stocks are a favorable factor for farmers' prices for hens and turkeys
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	May 1	63.9	79.3	70.7	June 1	56.2	68.6	59.8	
Broiler-feed price ratio 4/	Lb. feed	May	---	4.3	5.3	June	---	4.5	5.4	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	May	8.9	7.8	7.6	June	8.9	8.0	7.9	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 13 broiler areas	Millions	May	---	15.4	17.2	June	---	15.1	17.6	Settings of eggs in incubators assure continued large placements through July

1/ This series has been changed from that appearing in issues of the Situation prior to 1955, and now represents only shell eggs. The complete series for 1938-54 appeared on page 24 of PES-175. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ 9-year average. 4/ The 10-year averages in this line are not precisely comparable to the averages for the individual months, since prior to April 1949 this item was reported as "chickens", and since then as "broilers and fryers." 5/ This differs from the chicken-feed price ratio appearing in this table prior to PES-176.

* Beginning with 1955, the Crop Reporting Board has discontinued reporting this series for July 1. However, corresponding estimates for the first day of April, May, and June will continue.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, July 12, 1955

SUMMARY

Egg prices in most markets in early July were a few cents per dozen above a month earlier, and in general close to the same period in 1954. The mid-June price received by farmers averaged 33.8 cents per dozen, the same as in mid-May. This compared with 33.0 cents in mid-June 1954. Later this year, however, egg prices are expected to rise considerably above the unusually low level of 1954, because of the prospective drop from last year in last-quarter egg production. The number of young chickens on farms June 1 was 18 percent below a year earlier.

Broiler prices weakened slightly in late June, after the U. S. average farm price in mid-June was reported at 27.3 cents. (In June 1954 it had been 24.4 cents.) Early July sales were from the chick placements of 10-12 weeks earlier, which were of record size, 7 percent above a year earlier. Placements and settings of eggs in incubators have since increased slightly, indicating continued large broiler supplies through September.

The 1955 crop of heavy-breed turkeys may be up to the 1954 number of 45 million birds raised. Heavy-breed poult hatchings the first 4 months of this year totaled 13 percent below the same period last year, but May hatchings were 8 percent above a year earlier, and settings of eggs in incubators since June 1 have also been higher. Hatchings of light-breed poults continue sharply below last year, with cumulative hatchings to June 1 31 percent below the year before, when 18 million light-breed birds were raised. Part of the reduction in light-breed turkeys will be offset by the early slaughter of white-feathered heavy-breed birds at light weights. In view of the late-season pickup in hatchings of heavy-breed poults, November and December slaughter is likely to be about up to year-ago levels, although slaughter in late summer and early fall will be below 1954.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Egg Prices Rose in Late June

In the last half of June egg prices rose several cents per dozen, with the increase greatest for the better grades and larger sizes. This reflects the seasonal decline in egg production, and the decline in the proportion of large eggs showing top interior quality. Quality declines in hot weather and also with increasing age of the layers.

Table 1.- Egg prices, selected dates, 1955, with comparisons

Item	1954				1955			
	May 17	June 15	July 15	Aug. 16	Apr. 15	May 16	June 15	July 8
U. S. average price received by farmers, per dozen	33.1	33.0	34.5	37.4	35.9	33.8	33.8	
Iowa prices received by farmers, per dozen 1/:								
Grade A Large	27-29	2/27-28	32-34	32-35	2/31-33	28-30	29-30	30-32
Grade A Medium	24-26	23-25	22-24	22-25	28-30	26-28	24-26	25-27
Current receipts	25-26	23-27	2/21-25	22-24	30	2/27-29	25-27	25-26
New York, wholesale prices								
Midwestern, mixed colors								
per dozen:								
Fancy heavy-weights	39-40	37-37½	44-45½	45-46½	41-42	38-39	39-40½	40-41
Extras 1, medium	34-35	33½-34	38½-40	35½-36½	39-40	35-35½	36-37	38½-39½
Nearby whites, per dozen:								
Extra fancy, heavy-weights	40-41½	40-41	52-53	54-55	45-46½	38-39½	42-43½	41½-44
Medium	34-35	34½-35½	43-43½	35-35½	43-44	35-36	39-39½	40-41
Small (pullets)	29-30½	28-28½	29½-30	24-25	35-36	31½-32½	31-32	30-30½
Frozen egg, per pound 3/:								
Mixed whole egg	26½-29	26-28	27-28½	25½-28½	30½-32½	28-31	27½-30	26½-30
Yolk 4/	48-49	50-51	51-53	53-55½	52-54	51½-53	51-53	51-53
Albumen	17½-19	15-17	14½-17½	14-18	19-21	18½-20½	19-21	20-22
Chicago								
Wholesale price, per dozen:								
Mixed colors, extras, Large	36-36½	34½-35	44½.45	43½-44	39-39½	34½-35	36-36½	37½-38
Future contracts:								
September delivery (closing price)	41.75	40.55	41.10	36.10	44.75	41.70	41.55	40.45
San Francisco, wholesale price, per dozen:								
Grade A, Large	40½-41½	43½-44½	51½-52½	46½-47½	40½-41½	40½-41½	39½-40½	43½-44½
Grade A, Medium	37-37½	37-37½	46-46½	37-37½	39-39½	39-39½	39-39½	40-40½

1/ "Mostly," except where otherwise stated: Friday of given week through March 1955; thereafter, prices are for given dates. 2/ Complete price range; not "mostly." 3/ Carlots. Weekly price. 4/ Highest color quoted.

The top wholesale quotation for nearby white eggs in New York City was 44 cents per dozen on July 8, about the same as in mid-June, since early July declines had wiped out the late-June gains. Prices of mid-western eggs of the closest comparable grade were about 3 cents below nearby eggs in New York in the same period. Country paying prices for Grade A large eggs in Iowa were 30-32 cents, a cent above mid-June. Table 1 shows that small net increases were general over the country.

Although egg prices declined sharply in early July, the prospect remains for a seasonal egg price increase. The early July drop may be a reflection of the June 30 cut-off in the into-storage period for eggs eligible for future delivery in Chicago, and the large current production. On July 1, layers in farm flocks were above a year earlier by almost 4 percent, and rate of lay was almost 6 percent above last year. The figure for number of layers, and perhaps also for rate of lay, is likely to taper off from this comparison to last year.

The rise in late June probably marked the beginning of the seasonal egg price increase. While the increase may be temporarily interrupted from time to time, as it was in early July, the net change for the next several months will likely be upward, with farmers' average prices in the fall and early winter considerably above the unusually low prices in the corresponding months of 1954. (See table 2, and the cover chart of this issue.)

Higher prices in the fall and winter are expected because of prospects that egg production will be noticeably smaller than a year earlier, due to the smaller number of replacement pullets now being raised. On June 1 the number of young chickens on farms was 18 percent smaller than on June 1, 1954. The effects of this cut-back are likely to more than offset the 4 percent larger number of layers in the laying flock July 1, the larger stocks of shell eggs in cold storage, and the likelihood that the monthly rate of lay per bird will continue higher than in 1954.

Fewer Replacement Pullets;
To Affect Egg Production
After Mid-Summer

On June 1, farmers had 18 percent fewer young chickens than last year for laying flock replacement. The number of young chickens has moved progressively closer to the year before as the season has advanced (table 3). But after the end of the major hatching season for flock replacement the gap was still wide enough to indicate egg production later this year will be lower than 1954. This reduction may begin during August, when most of the pullets from the small hatch of March will be laying. It will probably be greatest, percentage-wise, during the last 3 months of the year. Even assuming slightly less culling than last year, a decrease of about 8 percent from last year in numbers of layers can be anticipated for October 1, and almost as large a decrease for January 1, 1956.

Table 2.- Eggs: Midmonth prices received by farmers, 1949-53 average, 1954 to date

(Including data for cover chart)

Month	As reported, per dozen			Seasonal adjustment factor		Seasonally-adjusted egg price			
						Per dozen		As a percentage of parity	
	1949-53 average	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Pct.	Pct.	Ct.	Ct.	Pct.	Pct.
January	41.4	46.3	32.2	95	94	48.7	34.3	104	74
February	37.9	45.7	39.5	87	86	52.5	45.9	112	99
March	39.0	38.7	39.7	87	88	44.5	45.1	95	97
April	39.4	35.0	35.9	87	89	40.2	40.3	86	86
May	39.7	33.1	33.8	88	90	37.6	37.6	80	81
June	40.1	33.0	33.8	90	91	36.7	37.1	78	80
July	43.5	34.5		99		34.8		75	
August	47.0	37.4		107		35.0		75	
September	49.6	33.8		113		29.9		64	
October	50.7	32.4		116		27.9		60	
November	50.2	33.9		115		29.5		64	
December	48.9	32.7		112		29.2		63	
Annual average	1/43.7	1/36.8				37.2		80	

1/ Weighted average.

Table 3.- Indications of laying flock replacement, 1955 compared with 1954

Item	Unit	1953	1954	1955	1955 as a percentage of 1954
					Pct.
Chickens raised	Mil.	609	620		
Pullets on farms January 1 following	Mil.	281	291		
Sexed pullets as a percentage of farmers' chick purchases	Pct.	42	43	1/42	98
Chicks and young chickens on farms first of month					
April 1	Mil.	215	255	184	72
May 1	Mil.	379	410	332	81
June 1	Mil.	471	504	415	82
July 1	Mil.	464	476	2/	
Hatchery output of replacement chicks					
January	Mil.	125	140	111	79
February	Mil.	170	191	162	85
March	Mil.	277	308	252	82
April	Mil.	287	304	270	89
May	Mil.	230	220	217	99
June	Mil.	137	129		

1/ Intentions. 2/ July 1 estimates for this series have been discontinued.

The cuts from last year in the number of replacement chickens are slightly larger than the U. S. average in the West North Central and South Atlantic States, where the June 1 numbers of young chickens on farms were 22 and 21 percent below a year ago. In California a weekly estimate of the number of light-breed chicks hatched for laying flock replacement shows a 21 percent increase over last year for the 5 weeks beginning in early June. For May, the corresponding figure in California was 2 percent lower than in 1954.

To June 1955, net reduction of the January 1 laying flock, by deaths and culling, would seem to conform reasonably closely to the pattern of previous years as shown by estimates of the Crop Reporting Board (table 4). The Crop Reporting data for 1955 are supported by the weekly "Commercial Poultry Slaughter Report" (table 5). For another month or two, the carry-over of birds now in the laying flock will keep the numbers of layers close to last year. But, later, the size of the laying flock will reflect the smaller number of replacements being raised.

Monthly rates of lay per bird for layers on hand, as well as the birds now growing, are likely to be higher than corresponding rates a year earlier, assuming near-average weather conditions. In all but 5 months since September 1952, the monthly rate of lay has been higher than the year before. Percentage-wise, the increases in rate of lay have been least in the spring and early summer, and greatest in late fall and early winter. Extension of this trend will partly offset the effect of the reduced number of potential layers.

The larger storage stocks of shell eggs will be another offset to the reduced number of layers expected for later in the year, and the reduced egg output. On June 1, the holdings of 2.1 million cases of shell eggs were 53 percent larger than a year earlier. If the July 1 holdings show similar percentage relation to a year earlier (report to be released July 15), the additional stocks of eggs on that date will be about 3/4 of a million cases above last year. This is equivalent to 2 percent of the August, September, and October production of 1954. For at least the last 2 of those 3 months, average egg production is likely to be below 1954 by more than this percentage.

Although the extra eggs in storage will be a partial offset to the reduction in production, the price of fresh eggs may not be affected by the larger storage stocks. Particularly in the later months of the year, fresh and stored eggs are not perfect substitutes for each other, and their prices may follow divergent trends.

Broilers: No Let-up in Placements, Prices Sustained

Marketings of broilers have been increasing gradually since the beginning of March and will continue to increase through August and possibly later. This is indicated by chick placement data from 22 important States, allowing for a 10-12 week growing period (table 6).

Table 4.- Chickens: January-August changes in numbers of layers, 1950 to date, with comparisons

Year	Jan. 1 hens and pullets on farms	Layers on farms first of month							
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	a. As reported								
1950	423.8	391.6	381.8	370.5	355.2	334.4	315.1	299.5	289.2
1951	410.2	380.1	372.5	363.8	346.1	329.1	311.0	297.3	284.8
1952	419.9	388.0	380.8	369.7	350.8	332.7	315.2	297.2	287.5
1953	404.0	379.5	368.9	357.5	343.7	329.1	312.5	300.4	293.5
1954	413.6	387.3	378.0	366.8	353.3	336.9	323.9	310.2	307.9
1955	421.9	397.0	383.2	375.0	359.7	345.7	331.1	321.2	
	b. As a percentage of previous year								
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1950	106	106	105	105	106	105	104	103	105
1951	97	97	98	98	97	98	99	99	98
1952	102	102	102	102	101	101	101	100	101
1953	96	98	97	97	98	99	99	101	102
1954	102	102	102	103	103	102	104	103	105
1955	102	102	101	102	102	103	102	104	
	c. As a percentage of January 1 hens and pullets								
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1950	100	92	90	87	84	79	74	71	68
1951	100	93	91	89	84	80	76	72	69
1952	100	92	91	88	84	79	75	71	68
1953	100	94	91	88	85	81	77	74	73
1954	100	94	91	89	89	81	78	75	74
1955	100	94	91	89	85	82	78	76	

Table 5.- Commercial slaughter of hens: Weekly rates, January 1955 to date, as a percentage of previous year 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apri.	May	June
Average number of slaughtering establishments upon which data are based	No.	164	172	174	178	181	159
Total weight of hens (and cocks)	Pct.	130	82	128	101	108	95
slaughtered in successive weeks	Pct.	137	114	99	76	87	106
during the month, as a per-	Pct.	151	115	80	95	84	86
centage of corresponding	Pct.	133	133	73	93	97	77
week in previous year	Pct.			108			77

1/ These data are taken from USDA's weekly "Commercial Poultry Slaughter Report."

Table 6.- Broilers: Weekly rate of placements in specialized areas, January 1954 to date, and weekly rate of hatching-egg settings, January 1955 to date

Period 1/	Chick placements 2/				Egg settings, 1955, 22 States, 3 weeks previous	1955 chick placements, 22 States, as a percentage of egg settings 3 weeks previous
	1954		1955			
	13 areas	22 States	13 areas	22 States		
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Pct.
January	14.3		12.4	15.3	20.8	74
February	14.9		15.5	19.7	27.0	73
March	15.7		15.5	20.0	27.9	72
Week ending:						
April 2	16.1		16.2	20.9	28.9	72
9	16.1		16.4	21.2	29.6	72
16	16.4		16.8	21.7	30.6	71
23	16.0		16.7	21.6	30.4	71
30	15.4		17.1	21.8	30.2	72
May 7	15.9		17.0	22.0	30.1	73
14	16.1		17.1	22.0	30.8	72
21	15.2		17.4	22.2	31.0	72
28	14.4		17.2	22.1	30.7	72
June 4	14.4		17.5	22.3	30.6	73
11	14.7		17.4	22.4	31.1	72
18	15.3		18.1	22.8	31.1	73
25	15.4		17.5	22.2	30.7	72
July 2	15.4		17.6	22.3	30.8	72
9	15.1				30.8	
16	15.0				30.9	
23	14.3				30.4	
30	14.5					
August 6	13.9					
13	13.8					
20	14.0					
27	13.8					
September	13.1					
October	11.5	14.1				
November	12.1	15.0				
December	11.2	14.0				

1/ Individual weeks are for 1955; corresponding dates for 1954.
2/ Since they are reduced to weekly rates, the data within the respective columns are fully comparable.

Although increased marketings brought prices down from the 29.4 cent U. S. average farmers' price of mid-March, prices have continued well above 1954. In mid-June, the U. S. average price was 27.3 cents, 2.9 cents higher than a year earlier. Prices moved slightly downward from mid-June to early July. With feed prices declining, the U. S. broiler-feed price ratio in the last 4 months has been higher than at any other time since the ratio was first established in 1953 (table 7).

These price relationships are inducing continued large placements of broilers. In 22 principal States, hatchings in the week ending July 2 were 99 percent of the average for the highest 4 consecutive weeks so far in 1955; these weeks began June 11. Eggs in incubators on July 2 assure continued large hatchings for 3 weeks further. Compared with a year earlier, placements in 13 areas in the week ending July 2 were up 15 percent, and egg settings were up 14 percent.

Chicks hatched in early July will become marketable broilers at the end of September or later. At about that time, or shortly thereafter, demand for broilers often declines because of the end of hot weather. Meanwhile supplies of red meats will increase to near-record levels, and supplies of turkey will be large. If the usual seasonal decline in egg settings for broilers is deferred much longer, and if egg settings for broilers persist near recent levels through July and into August, a significant broiler price decline before the end of the year is likely.

Late Hatch of Heavy-Breed Poults Brings Total Close to 1954

Poult hatchings through the first 4 months of 1955 were considerably below last year for both heavy and light breeds, but in the last month or two heavy-breed hatchings have exceeded last year. As a result, 1955 hatchings of heavy-breed poults for marketing before the end of the year are likely to be almost as large as in 1954. Output of light-breed poults, however, continues about 30 percent below output to the same date of last year.

If the June 1955 turkey hatch had the same relation to 1954 as the relation between June 1 eggs in incubators in 1955 and 1954, hatchings of heavy-breed poults by July 1 will be 3 percent below last January-June, and those of light breeds, 29 percent below. The Hatchery Report to be released July 15 will show if June hatchings conformed to the reported number of eggs in incubators June 1 (17 percent above last year for heavy breeds, and 17 percent below last year for light breeds). For heavy breeds this contrasts to the situation at the beginning of May, when 1955 hatchings to date were only 87 percent of the year before.

Weekly data concerning turkey hatchery operations are available for 11 States which in 1954 hatched 71 percent of the heavy-breed poults and 86 percent of the light breeds. In those States during June, weekly egg settings averaged 28 percent of weekly May settings for heavy breeds, and 101 percent for light breeds. If equivalent ratios prevail for the U. S., the heavy-breed turkey crop growing for sale in the last half of 1955 would likely be about the same as in 1954. The crop of light breeds, however, would be 20 to 25 percent smaller.

Although the crop is likely to be almost as large as last year, the distribution of heavy-breed turkeys will be considerably different. A large number of poults classified as heavy-breed are white-feathered birds whose inconspicuous pin feathers make it practical to slaughter them at light weights if prices make such a course practical. In Minnesota,

Table 7.- Broilers: Mid-month average price received by farmers, price paid for broiler mash, and broiler-feed price ratio, 1953 to date

Year	Month												Annual average
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
	a. Broiler price, cents per pound												
1953	27.9	27.7	28.1	28.0	27.2	26.2	28.3	27.9	27.1	26.7	26.0	23.2	27.1
1954	24.2	22.6	23.5	24.3	23.7	24.4	25.4	24.9	23.0	21.0	20.1	19.2	23.1
1955	24.3	25.2	29.4	28.6	26.8	27.3							
	b. Broiler mash, dollars per 100 pounds												
1953	5.46	5.38	5.34	5.32	5.28	5.26	5.23	5.23	5.22	5.14	5.09	5.23	5.26
1954	5.23	5.26	5.32	5.41	5.51	5.39	5.35	5.39	5.33	5.19	5.17	5.18	5.31
1955	5.20	5.18	5.15	5.13	5.08	5.02							
	c. Broiler-feed price ratio 1/												
1953	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.4	5.1
1954	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.3
1955	4.7	4.9	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.4							

1/ Number of pounds of broiler growing mash equal in value to 1 pound of broiler, live weight.

Table 8.- Turkey poults: Monthly production in commercial hatcheries, 1954 to date

Month	Monthly					Cumulative				
	Poults hatched			Difference, 1955 from 1954		Poults hatched			Difference, 1955 from 1954	
	1953	1954	1955 1/	Number	Percent	1953	1954	1955 1/	Number	Percent
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
	a. Heavy breeds									
Jan.	858	1,217	1,196	-21	-2	858	1,217	1,196	-21	-2
Feb.	2,819	3,374	2,652	-722	-21	3,677	4,591	3,848	-743	-16
Mar.	8,776	9,369	7,644	-1,725	-18	12,453	13,960	11,492	-2,468	-18
Apr.	12,762	13,855	12,635	-1,220	-9	25,215	27,815	24,127	-3,688	-13
May	12,669	13,449	14,546	1,097	8	37,884	41,264	38,673	-2,591	-6
June	6,321	7,743	2/			44,205	49,007			
July	1,150	1,446	3/			45,355	50,453			
Aug.	123	88				45,478	50,541			
Sept.	11	25				45,489	50,566			
Oct.	25	61				45,514	50,627			
Nov.	65	179				45,579	50,806			
Dec.	345	539				45,924	51,345			
	b. Light breeds									
Jan.	968	1,820	1,323	-497	-27	968	1,820	1,323	-497	-27
Feb.	1,201	1,673	1,093	-580	-35	2,169	3,493	2,416	-1,077	-31
Mar.	1,667	1,786	1,080	-706	-40	3,836	5,279	3,496	-1,783	-34
Apr.	2,270	2,344	1,717	-627	-27	6,106	7,623	5,213	-2,410	-32
May	2,964	3,296	2,362	-934	-28	9,070	10,918	7,573	-3,345	-31
June	2,649	3,024	2/			11,719	13,942			
July	1,804	2,446	3/			13,523	16,388			
Aug.	1,103	1,338				15,626	17,728			
Sept.	442	690				15,068	18,416			
Oct.	408	675				15,476	19,091			
Nov.	671	1,041				16,147	20,132			
Dec.	1,306	1,655				17,453	21,787			

1/ Preliminary. 2/ On June 1, heavy-breed eggs in incubators were 17 percent greater than a year earlier, and light-breed eggs 17 percent fewer. 3/ In the 5 weeks preceding July 2, in 11 important States the settings of heavy-breed eggs were 28 percent of the May weekly rate, and light-breed settings 10 percent.

44 percent of the June hatchery output of heavy-breed poults was of white-feathered breeds, as shown by the following:

Heavy-breed poults	Thousands
"Broad Whites"	341
Other	437
Light-breed poults	476

While data are not available for other States, outside of Minnesota the white-feathered breeds probably are a smaller proportion of heavy turkeys than in Minnesota.

The prospective marketing pattern for 1955 turkeys also differs from that of 1954. Judging from the monthly distribution of hatchings for heavy-breed poults, slaughter will be later this year than last. This may prevent the price-depressing situation of some past years, when turkeys came upon the market so early in the fall that prices were discounted for risk and storage costs. The later maturity of turkeys this year may result in higher prices in early fall than last year.

The late hatch of turkeys may result in more than usual pressure on slaughtering and dressing facilities in November and December.

Due to the present availability of monthly poult hatching data for all States, and weekly data for 11 important States, USDA will not make a growers' survey this summer of turkeys raised. The Department's August estimate of turkeys raised will be based on hatchery data. Thus, information on growers' intentions as to monthly marketings will not be collected or published.

New State Egg Laws Effective in Several States

New State Egg Laws were recently to have become effective in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas, and North and South Carolina. In many respects, these laws resemble corresponding legislation in other States, with the general intention of encouraging improved quality of local production, and requiring an accurate identification as to quality of eggs sold in various channels of trade, but usually exempting first sales made by farmer-producers.

The new Iowa legislation has specifications not in the legislation of other States. Among its requirements are (1) compulsory grading, by a licensed grader, of eggs bought from producers (except eggs bought directly by final consumers), with payment based on the results of the grading, and (2) a specification regarding the maximum temperature (60° F.) at which eggs may be kept while on display in retail stores.

Some trade interests in Iowa have raised the point that enforcement of these provisions might reduce the number of outlets available to farmers for the sale of their eggs, and also reduce the retail availability of eggs to consumers.

In Minnesota, where legislation favors (but does not require) the sale of eggs on grade, a sample survey has shown that 79 percent of the producers there sold eggs on grade. Their sales comprised 87 percent of the eggs sold in November 1954.

World Trade in Market Eggs 1/

The world trade in market eggs continued to increase during 1954 and is now comparable to prewar years. Denmark and the Netherlands increased their volume of trade over 1953. These 2 countries now, as before World War II, are the world's largest shell egg exporters. The Netherlands exported 170.8 million dozen eggs in 1954 while Denmark exported 149.5 million dozen, compared with United States exports of 48 million dozen.

The United States was a minor exporter before the war but because of expanded markets in Mexico, Venezuela, and the Caribbean countries, now ranks third. [1954 exports of eggs from the U. S. were almost 1 percent of U. S. production.] Those outlets not protected by currency exchange factors will continue to be potential markets for Danish, Dutch, and Canadian eggs, particularly during the flush season in those producing countries. These 3 countries are steadily increasing their flock numbers.

1954 exports from the Eastern European countries, Ireland, Belgium, and Argentina were considerably below 1938.

Germany has replaced the United Kingdom as the largest importer of market eggs. Currency controls bar United States eggs from these 2 markets. German imports of 210 million dozen in 1954 were 29 percent above 1953; and were still larger in early 1955 than during the corresponding period in 1954. The United Kingdom imported 119.7 million dozen in 1954, 11 percent below 1953.

Table 9 .- Exports of market eggs from principal exporting countries

Country	1938	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.
Netherlands	126.0	103.4	112.3	136.5	170.8
Denmark	129.9	120.6	126.6	136.7	149.5
United States	2.1	27.0	41.7	39.7	48.0
China 1/	20.6	37.0	35.0	35.5	32.4
Poland 1/	41.5	15.0	17.5	26.0	20.0
Yugoslavia	18.9	0.3	4.0	7.4	19.3
Australia	2/10.1	14.4	20.3	13.1	17.5
Other Eastern European countries 1/	55.7	6.5	15.0	13.5	11.4
Sweden	7.8	12.8	12.4	9.8	10.9
Ireland	27.3	18.3	19.1	20.1	10.2
Canada	1.8	6.6	12.0	7.4	6.8
Belgium	11.4	3.0	2.2	5.0	6.3
Union of South Africa	2.8	3.5	6.3	6.7	3.9
France	2.6	13.8	5.5	2.2	2.8
Turkey	4.2	9.8	12.1	10.0	3/2.4
Norway	2.3	1.1	1.6	3.1	1.4

1/ Exports for 1951-1954 for Communist China, Poland and Eastern European countries are estimated from returns of importing countries.
2/ Year ending June 30, 1939.
3/ January-August, 1954.

Table 10.- Imports of market eggs by principal importing countries

Country	1938	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.
West Germany	1/132.6	137.0	132.7	162.7	210.0
United Kingdom	277.0	113.4	122.2	134.5	119.7
Italy	10.1	19.4	18.5	24.9	32.4
Hong Kong	---	21.2	26.1	27.1	27.9
Mexico	---	8.6	18.0	17.8	21.0
Venezuela	---	12.4	16.6	15.9	2/18.2
Switzerland	20.2	17.2	17.5	18.1	18.7
France	16.1	12.9	20.8	20.7	17.8
Cuba	---	5.3	8.7	7.1	7.4
United States	0.2	6.7	6.1	4.0	3.1
Austria	8.0	3.9	6.2	1.8	2.3
Spain	---	4.4	4.8	4.0	3/1.6
Greece	1.9	2.5	1.2	1.8	4/0.5

1/ Includes all Germany in 1938.
2/ January-October, 1954.
3/ January-August, 1954.
4/ January-November, 1954.

1/ The material on this page is adapted from Foreign Crops and Markets, June 20, 1955, published by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Table 11.- Chickens: Breed and variety distribution of hatchery supply flocks enrolled in the National Poultry Improvement Plan, United States, 1941-42 to date; by regions, 1953-54

Year	States reporting	Total birds in plan: Number	Percentage distribution by breed and variety 1/: Total	New Hampshire	White Leghorn	White Rock	Barred Rock	Rhode Island Red	Cross-mated	Others 2/
	No.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1941-42	33	10.7	100	21.2	24.1	15.6	16.2	12.5	2.0	8.3
1942-43	40	15.8	100	19.2	26.6	18.3	15.7	8.9	3.0	8.3
1943-44	42	20.3	100	19.4	25.9	19.7	13.9	8.3	5.5	7.3
1944-45	39	17.6	100	20.6	25.8	17.5	12.4	8.0	9.8	6.0
1945-46	32	20.3	100	23.8	23.1	17.0	11.4	7.7	11.3	5.7
1946-47	38	24.5	100	23.4	25.4	17.4	10.0	6.5	11.1	6.2
1947-48	42	25.1	100	25.9	24.7	15.2	10.2	6.8	12.4	4.8
1948-49	44	26.5	100	31.9	25.7	13.2	7.8	5.6	11.9	3.9
1949-50	47	36.2	100	38.8	21.9	10.4	6.2	4.3	15.1	3.2
1950-51	47	33.8	100	38.9	21.6	10.1	5.8	4.1	16.4	3.1
1951-52	47	37.6	100	41.4	18.9	11.9	4.0	3.3	14.3	6.2
1952-53	47	33.8	100	36.2	20.1	14.8	3.5	3.2	16.0	6.2
1953-54	47	36.0	100	25.4	18.9	23.1	2.2	2.7	19.7	8.0
1953-54 by regions										
N. Atlantic	9	8.1	100	22.6	20.3	23.3	5.6	4.9	19.7	3.6
E. N. Central	5	7.8	100	17.6	25.3	32.3	2.9	2.0	8.1	11.8
W. N. Central	7	8.2	100	13.1	26.4	13.1	.6	2.0	29.2	15.6
S. Atlantic	8	6.5	100	35.6	4.4	34.5	.6	2.9	20.1	1.9
S. Central	8	3.2	100	44.3	7.4	18.4	1.1	1.1	22.7	5.0
Western	10	2.3	100	31.2	33.7	6.5	.4	4.4	17.0	6.8

1/ Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. 2/ Includes in-crossmated.

Table 12.- Turkeys: Breed and variety distribution of hatchery supply flocks enrolled in the National Turkey Improvement Plan, United States, 1943-44 to date; by regions, 1953-54

Year	States reporting	Total birds in Plan: Number	Percentage distribution by breed and variety 1/: Total	Bronze: Broad-breasted	Bronze: Standard	White Holland	Beltsville Small White	All others 2/	Jan. 1 breeders estimated by Crop Reporting Board (48 States)
	No.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Mil.
1943-44	8	0.1	100	72	15	7	2	5	4.2
1944-45	24	.7	100	82	14	3	3/	2	4.5
1945-46	30	2.3	100	92	5	2	1	1	4.8
1946-47	39	1.9	100	89	4	5	2	1	3.8
1947-48	39	1.1	100	72	15	5	6	1	2.5
1948-49	41	1.8	100	77	15	4	4	1	3.1
1949-50	44	2.1	100	76	14	4	6	1	3.3
1950-51	44	2.3	100	77	2	4	16	1	3.3
1951-52	44	3.1	100	75	3/	4	19	2	3.8
1952-53	42	2.6	100	76	3/	4	17	2	3.4
1953-54	42	2.8	100	67	1	4	23	6	3.4
1953-54 by regions									
N. Atlantic	9	0.1	100	31	3	44	12	11	0.2
E. N. Central	5	.3	100	57	2	2	18	21	.3
W. N. Central	7	.6	100	62	3/	2	31	4	.8
S. Atlantic	8	.5	100	43	3/	2	51	4	.4
S. Central	6	.3	100	77	---	3/	16	7	.7
Western	7	1.0	100	87	3/	3/	11	2	1.0

1/ Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. 2/ Including Jersey Buff, Bourbon Red, Black Narragansett, Nebraskan, Crosses, and others. 3/ Less than 0.5 percent.